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Message Text

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AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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TAGS: PGOV, RINT, CY, TU, PEPR

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE ADMINISTRA-
TION'S ASSISTANCE PROPOSALS

1. CONGRESSMEN BRADEMAS, ROSENTHAL AND BIAGGI AND
SENATORS SARBANES AND EAGLETON HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE
ON THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO
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AGAINST TURKEY. WRITTEN TEXT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE: STATEMENT OF SENATORS THOMAS F. EAGLETON
(D-MO.) AND PAUL S. SARBANES (D-MD), REPRESENTATIVES JOHN
BRADEMAS (D-IND) AND BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL (D-NY),
APRIL 5, L978

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BECAUSE WE FEEL IT OUR OBLIGATION TO UPHOLD CERTAIN BASIC PRINCIPLES IN THE CONDUCT OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, WE MUST OPPOSE THE ADMINISTRATION'S ATTEMPT TO END THE ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY.

WE TAKE THIS POSITION FOR SEVERAL REASONS:

1. SUCH A POLICY WOULD, IF ENACTED, UNDERMINE THE RULE OF LAW IN THE EXECUTION OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY.

2. IT WOULD RAISE SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE CREDIBILITY OF AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. IT WOULD CALL INTO QUESTION OUR NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO THE CONTROL OF U.S. ARMS SALES ABROAD.

4. IT WOULD MAKE FAR MORE DIFFICULT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AND A JUST RESOLUTION OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM.

5. IT WOULD ENCOURAGE THE FURTHER GROWTH OF ANTI-AMERICAN FORCES IN GREECE.

6. IT WOULD MAKE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONSHIPS AMONG TURKEY, GREECE AND CYPRUS AND BETWEEN EACH OF THEM AND THE UNITED STATES.
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7. THE ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN COMPLETE RESUMPTION OF U.S. ARMS SALES TO TURKEY DESPITE THE LACK OF ANY SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS MEANS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS TURNED HIS BACK ON PROMISES MADE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND TO THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS BOTH DURING HIS CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENCY AND AFTER TAKING OFFICE.

IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT THE EMBARGO ON U.S. ARMS SALES TO TURKEY WAS VOTED BY CONGRESS AFTER TURKEY, IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF AMERICAN LAWS AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ALREADY IN EFFECT, USED AMERICAN WEAPONS FOR OFFENSIVE PURPOSES IN ITS AUGUST, 1974 INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS.

PROVISIONS OF BOTH THESE LAWS--THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AND THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT--REQUIRED THAT FURTHER MILITARY AID TO TURKEY BE TERMINATED. THE EMBARGO WAS VOTED, THEREFORE, NOT TO ENACT NEW LAW BUT RATHER TO INSURE THAT EXISTING LAWS WERE ENFORCED. THE CONTINUING OCCUPATION BY TURKISH FORCES, EQUIPPED WITH

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U.S.-SUPPLIED ARMS, OF FORTY PERCENT OF CYPRUS IS A
CONTINUING VIOLATION OF THESE LAWS.

MR. CARTER PLEDGED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING HIS
PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN THAT ANY NORMALIZATION OF OUR ARMS
RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY WOULD BE LINKED WITH A SETTLE-
MENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. (ATTACHED ARE TWO MAJOR
POLICY STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT ISSUED BY MR. CARTER
AS COMPILED IN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN 1976 (VOLUME ONE,
PART TWO: JIMMY CARTER), U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING
OFFICE, 1978.)

8. OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF HIS
ADMINISTRATION HAVE CONFIRMED THEIR COMMITMENT TO THESE
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PRINCIPLES. IN LIGHT OF SUCH CLEAR AND CONTINUING AS-
SURANCES, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, ON THIS MATTER, WE
WERE DEEPLY DISMAYED TO LEARN THAT ALTHOUGH TURKEY HAS
DONE NOTHING TO PROMOTE A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AND ALTHOUGH
TURKISH TROOPS ARMED WITH AMERICAN WEAPONS STILL -- IN
VIOLATION OF AMERICAN LAW -- OCCUPY FORTY PERCENT OF
CYPRUS, CONGRESS IS BEING ASKED TO RE-ESTABLISH A FULL
ARMS RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY. THIS WE CANNOT SUPPORT.

9. AS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN
INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE, WE BELIEVE THAT EFFECTIVE USE
OF THE ARMS EMBARGO REPRESENTS THE PATH MOST LIKELY TO
LEAD TO A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
EMBARGO HAS BEEN UNDERMINED, HOWEVER, BY CERTAIN ACTIONS
OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

10. AS LONG-TIME SUPPORTERS OF NATO, WE KNOW THAT THE
STRENGTH OF OUR SOUTHEASTERN EUROPEAN FLANK REQUIRES
BOTH TURKEY AND GREECE TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLES IN THE
ALLIANCE. AN ADMINISTRATION POLICY WHICH PREVENTS THE
FULL PARTICIPATION OF BOTH NATIONS THREATENS SERIOUS
LONG-TERM DAMAGE TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS IN
THAT VITAL REGION.

11. AND AS ADHERENTS OF RESTRAINT IN THE USE OF US
ARMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, WE BELIEVE, AS CYRUS VANCE
DID WHEN HE TESTIFIED BEFORE CONGRESS IN JULY 1975
AGAINST THE PARTIAL LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, THAT "THIS
SO-CALLED COMPROMISE WOULD CREATE A WIDESPREAD IMPRESSION
THAT NO NATION THAT HAS ACQUIRED ARMS FROM THE UNITED
STATES NEED ANY LONGER PAY ATTENTION TO THE CONDITIONS
ON WHICH THOSE ARMS WERE MADE AVAILABLE BUT WOULD BE
FREE TO USE THEM IN PURSUIT OF ITS OWN INTERESTS IN
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LOCAL CONFLICTS."

12. FOR ALL THE REASONS WE HAVE STATED -- REASONS IN LAW AND PRINCIPLE -- WE WILL WORK VIGOROUSLY TO PREVENT THE ADMINISTRATION'S RETREAT ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE.

13. WE BELIEVE THAT A MAJORITY OF OUR COLLEAGUES IN CONGRESS SHARE OUR CONCERNS AND WILL ACT ACCORDINGLY."

2. SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS DURING PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWS SEPTEL. VANCE

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